

NEWSLETTER

VOL 1 ISSUE 3



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Don't forget to let us know
if you are about to
change address.

FOR CLUB MEMBERS ONLY

FOXY'S TECH TIPS



In the following issues of the Club magazine I will be addressing some of your questions on the technical aspects of building your robot for Robot Wars. I will try to cover as many points as possible and will also include in each issue a best buy.

Questions: This month obviously there are no questions to be answered, so I will look forward to receiving, via the Editor (rwnnews@mentorn.co.uk), your questions to be answered. So let's start with 'How to get on the Suppliers List'. There is only one way of doing this. Firstly you must have a product suitable for Robot Wars. You would have to assure us that you have enough stock and you would also need to send your product to the Tech Department for evaluation. If you can comply with these terms you would then be able to go on our Suppliers List.

Best buy: This month the best buy is motors and gearboxes available from Plant Engineering (www.bigcheeserobot.com). We have thoroughly tested these motors and gearboxes and they represent excellent value for robot building.

Series 4 is now in the can and we are looking forward to your designs for Series 5. There will be some minor alterations in the Rules and when you apply for your entry form for Robot Wars (and only when you apply and return your entry forms) you will receive your set of rules. So please get your entries in as soon as possible so that we will have all of the robots ready for Series 5.

Derek Foxwell

"Välkomna alla nya Robot Wars tittare i Sverige!"

LETTER FROM ANDREA JACKSON

If you have been following the website you may have noticed different welcome messages on the front page in various languages every couple of weeks or so. This is because Robot Wars has now been taken up by even more countries around the world, the latest being Sweden, Taiwan, Holland, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Poland and the United States. We welcome you all to the Robot Wars community. There are many more countries waiting in the sidelines ready to commence battle.

LETTER FROM BILL HOBBS

Welcome to another issue of the Robot Wars Club Newsletter. This issue comes to you after the huge success of Robot Mayhem and the filming of Robot Wars - The Fourth Wars. Both events turned out to be amazing. The support shown by the general public proves that Robot Wars is firmly in the hearts and minds of many of the viewing public, be they young or old and the quality of roboteering has taken a giant leap from that of last year.

My lasting memory of the summer's events was watching the crowds at both Robot Mayhem and the filming of Robot Wars 4. The enjoyment on their faces was clear to see, and who was providing the entertainment? - The roboteers with their fantastic fighting machines, every one a member of the Robot Wars Club! Once again a huge thank you to everyone who took part. The time and effort invested by our robot builders this year means that we are going to have the best Wars ever! Truly a testament to the variety and ingenuity of the entrants and the driving skill and weapons handling of those who won through to the show. I hope you all enjoy watching the series on TV which begins on BBC 2 on Friday 22nd September 2000 after the International League special on 15th September.

Happy roboteering!
Bill Hobbs

LIVE EVENTS

Over the next few months there are going to be quite a few Live Events around the Country. These events range in location from Cornwall up to Scotland. Every issue we will supply information regarding events taking place during the coming months. These events are not endorsed by Robot Wars but are organised by people who have a serious interest in showing their Robots to the Public.

The main event during the month of September is:

Saturday September 30th 2000
Southfield's School, Kettering, Northants.
For further information contact Ozzy,
from the Witch Team on 07967 879711.

For other events keep an eye open on the discussion group in the Robot Wars Forum on the Web.

<http://www.robotwars.co.uk/forum>

WARS ON THE WEB

Robot Wars : TV Shows:
Flippers, pincers and devastation

By Agent on Wednesday, August 16, 2000 - 06:11 pm:

Which robot do you THINK is the MOST devastating? I think it is a joint between Chaos 2 and Hypno Disc.

By Adam Wiseman on Wednesday, August 16, 2000 - 06:26 pm:

Razer is the most devastating robot.

By Agent on Wednesday, August 16, 2000 - 08:21 pm:

What happens when Razer crushes the hypno disc's weapon?

By Jon Howdle (Xno) on Wednesday, August 16, 2000 - 08:28 pm:

Umm, big squash, squidging sounds, Hypnodisc boys say "Oh bugger". To put it technically.

By Peter S on Wednesday, August 16, 2000 - 08:44 pm:

I couldn't see Razer getting through the disk, but it would buckle and dent and maybe prevent it spinning properly. As for a destructive robot, I still remember Killertron and it's enormous pickaxe. It would be feeble against robots in series 4, but it was great for its time.

By Agent (Agent) on Thursday, August 17, 2000 - 12:10 pm:

Another Question, what will happen if hypno disc fight with Diotot?

By Richard Weir (Softweir) on Thursday, August 17, 2000 - 06:50 pm:

The fur would fly.

If you want to add any new threads or even add to the existing ones then go to;

www.robotwars.co.uk

MENTAL ROBOTIC FUN

Word Search

In each issue games will be here to keep you entertained in between Robot Wars.

The words can be found; left-to-right, up-and-down and diagonally.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1: Stinger | 2: Evil Weevil |
| 3: Berserk II | 4: Weldor |
| 5: Steg II | 6: Firestorm II |
| 7: Mortis | 8: Pussycat |
| 9: Wild Thing | 10: Killerhurtz |
| 11: Gemini | 12: Cerberus |

K	W	W	W	I	B	B	C	I	I	L
F	I	R	E	S	T	O	R	M	I	I
C	L	L	E	L	K	G	O	I	P	V
E	D	Y	L	B	D	U	B	I	U	E
R	T	I	I	E	G	O	O	P	S	E
B	H	M	L	S	R	E	R	L	S	W
E	I	A	O	E	T	H	T	J	Y	L
R	N	N	T	R	L	E	U	K	C	I
U	G	T	H	K	T	B	G	R	A	V
S	G	E	M	I	N	I	S	I	T	E
R	E	G	N	I	T	S	S	J	I	Z

CROSSWORD

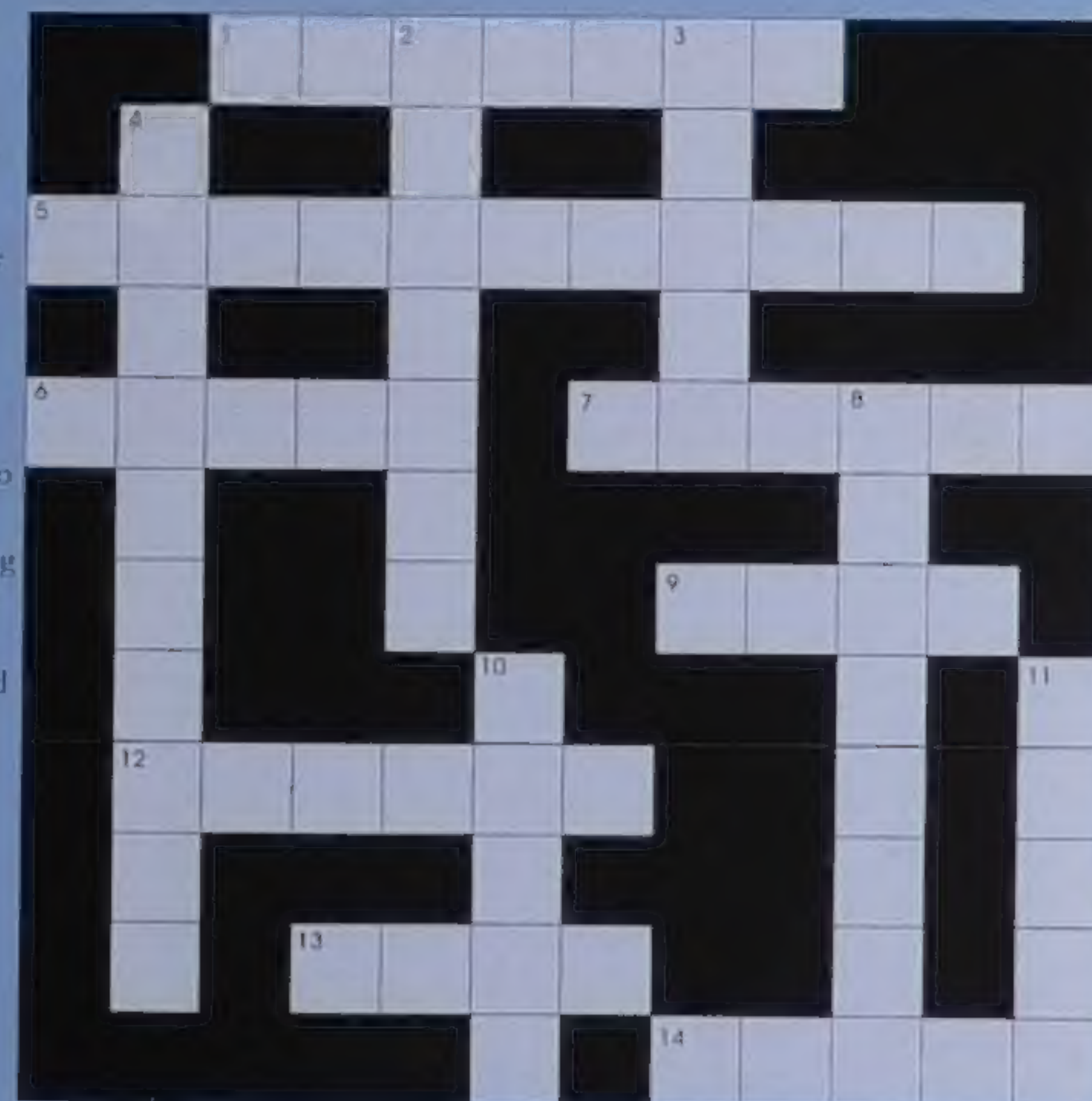
Below is a Crossword, which has all things robotic.

Clues Across

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1: I'm your Fire Starter | 5: The largest and Meanest House Robot |
| 6: Razer | 7: Crasha was its first name |
| 9: Took part in Heat J of Series 3 | 12: The New Sixth House Robot |
| 13: Flop Fly | 14: The New Presenter for the Fourth Wars |

Clues Down

- 2: In Series 3 the House Robot's hated this slinky Robot.
3: of Scatter
4: They axed Behemoth in Series 2
8: They tend to be?
10: A hedgehog has this name.
11: This has been revamped for the Forth Wars.



Crossword Across: 1. Sgt Bash 2. Trident 3. Spawm 4. Killertron 5. Suicidal 6. Razer 7. Gnarling 8. Reibol 9. Julia 10. Sonic 11. Arena 12. Flop 13. Flop 14. Etc

NEWSLETTER

MAYHEM AT THE LIVE EVENT

Robot Mayhem at Park Street Studios Hertfordshire turned out to be a real event winner. Fans arrived from far and wide to see many Robotic attractions. The new Refbot got most of the attention, as it demonstrated its refereeing powers in the new Arena.

Following this event, Series Four was recorded at Park Street, as some of you may have seen. To those of you who haven't, Robot Wars the Fourth War starts on 22nd September on BBC 2 at 6.45pm (where else the home of Robot Wars!). However, before the Wars began Qualifiers had to be staged to find the contestants to join the 32 seeded robots. The Live Event allowed roboters to bring down their machines and at least have a feel of how it is to fight in the arena. The general public were allowed to walk past the pits and this allowed the fans who had never seen a robot up close to do so. The most common response from this was "oh, they look much smaller on the television". In the Exhibition, objects were displayed from the new Refbot to mock up models of the House Robots. There was also a display of the new toys and some of the Star Robots. In the entrance was a museum with parts and objects used in the last three wars on display from the old body of Sgt Bash, the BBC 2 ident and parts of the house robots, as well as weapons used around the arena.

Some of the seeded roboters came along to answer questions from visitors to the show. These robots included King B3, Panic Attack, 101, Plunderbird (entertaining the crowds as usual) and Behemoth, to name but a few. The champions were also there, Chaos 2 from the last wars, Razer the world champion and Hypno-disc. A big thank you to those of you who bought items from the teams to help sponsor their Robots.

The fans were greatly awe inspired by the "celebrity" robots, the House Robots as well as those of the competitors. The new line of toys which should be available in October, Matilda, Sergeant Bash, Shunt, Dead Metal and of course Sir Killalot, were extremely popular. Robot Mayhem lasted ten days and saw many new and old robots enjoying the atmosphere. A good time was had by all!!

SIR KILLALOT'S DAY OUT

Chris Reynolds and Sir Killalot had a day at the Leverstock Green Bash in Hemel Hempstead on the 15th of July. The event was organised by Alex Chapman a staunch follower of Robot Wars. Three competitor robots visited the show. Oblivion, Nightmare and Behemoth, the local robot. Sir K made a number of new fans and so did his minder Chris Reynolds. After Sir K had gone Behemoth and Nightmare performed some demos for the crowd. Tug of war got the crowds chanting, and Sir Killalot actually made it into the local paper.

INTRO FROM THE EDITOR

Hi, Am here, Captain of BEHEMOTH Team, welcoming all readers to Issue 3 of the Robot Wars Club News Letter.

I hope the fans who have read my first issue (issue 2), enjoyed reading it and that this next issue fills in those blank spaces you are suffering before Series Four starts at the end of September on BBC 2.

If you wish to contribute any stories, gossip or share any information with your fellow Club members then email us at:

rwnews@mentorn.co.uk

Or you can leave a message in the Newsletter section of the Robot Wars forum on the internet or write to us at:

ROBOT WARS NEWS
W1A 3AR

<http://www.robotwars.co.uk>

*"Oh, they look much smaller
on the television"*

RW TO HIT THE CHARTS

A single is to appear on the chart scene with music from the Robot Wars gang. More detail on this on the website nearer the release date (and hopefully a sample or two of the track). Robot Wars at Number 1 on Top of The Pops?



THE MODIFICATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S HOUSE ROBOTS AND INTRODUCING "REFBOT"

Well it's time for the Fourth Wars and a new Robot, "Refbot", to join the House Robots. The main task of this Robot is to keep order over the normally disobedient House Bots. He also has a fire extinguisher to put out fires created by the flame pit or Sgt Bash (the original Fire-starter of Robot Wars). Refbot has also been designed to push immobile robots out of the arena into a safety pen. Other changes to the House Robots include larger cutters for Sir Killalot so that he can grab hold of the robots better. Sgt Bash has also been given larger front snippers and new fittings on his flame thrower. Matilda, Dead Metal and Shunt have had no major changes for the Fourth Wars.



WARS ON THE WEB

The threads on the official Robot Wars website are many and growing every day. They cover various subjects such as "The House Robots", "Competitors", to name but a few. This section on the Robot Wars website is used by fans and competitors to voice opinions about the show, as well as to help each other with the intricacies of building a robot. Many people who don't live in this country also visit this area! Here are some interesting threads....

ROBOT WARS: ROBOT MAYHEM AND LIVE EVENTS: ROBOT MAYHEM

By Tig (Tig) on Monday, July 3, 2000 - 06:58 pm:

This sounds totally awesome I am going on the first day and hopefully another

By Kollin Clifford (Schizoid) on Monday, July 17, 2000 - 05:18 am:

does anyone know anything about Refbot yet?

By Adam Wiseman (Wisey) on Monday, July 17, 2000 - 06:21 pm:

Yes, it will be a robot and a referee all rolled into one. Ha ha ha. Well I thought it was funny anyway

By John Birch (Johni) on Wednesday, August 2, 2000 - 01:44 pm:

Visited Robot Mayhem yesterday with my son and daughter (aged 4 and 9 - both fanatics who can reel off facts and figures, and recognise even obscure first round losers at 100 yards). Superb afternoon. But what really made the day was the exhibition, and in particular the presence of the Hypnodisc, Razer, Plunderbird and Behemoth teams (plus the Aggrobot and Chaos 2 robots - the teams must have been having the day off). Not only was it pretty awe inspiring for my children (and - damn it - me) to see these people in the flesh, and a more friendly, open and fun bunch of people you couldn't wish to meet.

THE TOYS ARE COMING TO TOWN.

Due for release in mid October, a set of House Robot Toys are hitting the high streets. Each House Robot comes with objects from the arena such as Sir Killalot with the seesaw bridge and large ball, Sgt Bash with a set of tyres to knock down, Shunt with car front and balls, Dead Metal with a set of Barrels and Matilda with the swinging doors. These toys are either pull back and go, or friction type drives which move these little Robots around and cost about £9.99 a set. Two of the House Robots, Shunt and Matilda, are being produced as Miniature Radio Controlled versions for £49.99 each. Also as time progresses competitor robots will be produced, the first being Hypno-Disc with a set of bricks to knock through. Others will follow and be turned into these little miniatures. They each have weapons like the real robots such as snapping pincers, shooting fire, flipping mechanisms, interchangeable weapons. These toys are just purely amazing! A definite hit for collectors. You can pre-order the toys from the Robot Wars website. Order now to make sure you have them for Christmas.



JULES STEPS INTO PHILIPPA'S SHOES

The fourth Wars has a new presenter for now, as Philippa Forrester awaits the arrival of her baby. Command has been handed to Julia Reed. Julia has already been seen on the Sky Technology Channel in a show called "Gear for the Sky" which was all "gadget and gizmos" explains Julia. She also co-presented the Farnborough air show in July with Nick Knowles. To Julia Robot Wars will be a major challenge. She also studied psychology at Bristol University, so getting into the minds of the Roboters should be a very easy task. This year Julia will be getting to meet the teams backstage just as they prepare to enter the arena, and ask them their tactics. So we wish her well as she takes her first plunge into the world of Robot Wars



BULLET PROOF GOLDFISH BOWL LOOKS GREAT FROM BOTH SIDES.

As a competitor in series three and series four I can say that the full combat sport is getting better and better, the arena was a great improvement over previous wars, the thick polycarbonate screen gives the audience a sneaky feel of just how much power the robots actually have and gives a sci-fi feeling when watching these immense machines do their stuff.

As thick as the safety cage is you can still hear and feel the excitement from the audience even over the roar of the flames operating beneath you. As a bit of an amateur in the wars it does make you a little nervous and it does get hot up in the roboteers' pods. Good fun though.

The arena floor was far better than anyone had anticipated this year. After talking with many roboteers, the special effects guys really took some time and thought in making it with low ground clearances in mind.

The house robots all seemed to be running really well, especially Killalot. His new claw looks the business and does it too. I think the audience will find a friend in the new Refbot. He is a nice looking machine and the sort of thing that you could take home to meet your parents. Having him there makes the arena a safer place meaning that humans don't need to be risked sorting out damaged machines.

Jules Reed was a real honey and made the competitors feel at ease just before their time and effort gets dismantled in the arena, she was charming and funny and, yes, it would be nice to take her home to meet the parents, along with Refbot of course.

Behind the scenes in the 'PITS' the sportsmanship and the humour was great, loads upon loads of great looking robots with covers removed as you can nose around inside. When looking at the machines it is clear that there are so many ways of solving similar problems in the robots. For me this was my highlight, finding out what makes these machines tick and swapping ideas with other roboteers. Tools were being freely lent to help others, even though competitors might then be up against each other. By looking at the robots it is clear to see that technology still moves on in this far out combat sport. The robots were more solidly constructed and better made than ever before. Real pride, time and effort had been invested, with so many hours of work on each machine.

It was great to see where the 'Wars' are heading. For me it's better entertainment and a bigger challenge each year to get that little bit further in the tournament. Like the other roboteers it's great to have fun with like minded builders.

The crew you meet behind the scenes all worked amazingly hard and still had time to make you feel at home there. When battles were taking place it looked like a production line of robots heading for battle. Basically the whole event is one big machine dedicated to entertainment and fun, and I love it !!

By JOOLZ

WWW. SITE FOCUS

In each issue we will be reviewing a competitor's web-site to highlight good areas to visit on the web. The second in this series is the site of Chaos 2.

George Francis, Series 3 champion hasn't just spent his time building Chaos 2. The site is kept well updated and is full of all the information you could want to know about Chaos 2 and its predecessors. The first thing you find is that the site is easy to navigate. All the links are right on the front page so you don't have to wade through page after page to find what you are looking for.

If you have just come for a browse on the site, check out the weapons test. Photo sequences taken during the firing of the flipper shows the sheer power Chaos 2 has available.

Looking for help in building your robot? Well George has collected together an excellent set of links to other sites including roboteers, manufacturers and useful reference data for all those metal properties you ever wanted to know.

George's site can be found at
www.gt-electronics.freemove.co.uk/index.htm

SERIES FOUR FORMAT; PART 2 "THE FIGHTING FORMAT"

The format of Robot Wars has been modified for the fourth Wars. The show now consists of six robots rather than eight in each episode. Two of them are seeded and the other four are qualifiers. The first round now starts with two groups of three-robot melees, allowing two robots per battle to progress to the next round. There are two head-to-head semi-finals and a final. We also find out how the teams really feel when they fight as the cameraman stands with the roboteers catching both their joys and pitfalls. Another technical change is that no one is allowed into the arena. At the start the robot is driven into position, giving the teams a chance to test their robot before battle, so if a robot is dead, Shunt or Refbot can push them to safety.